

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for generating a report on an unsolicited electronic message,
comprising:
- 5 receiving an electronic mail message;
- determining whether the electronic message is an unsolicited message;
- if the message is an unsolicited message,
- 10 examining the message to identify a network address relating to the
message,
- identifying an authority hosting the network address, and
- generating a report containing the identified network address and
hosting authority.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting the generated
report to the identified hosting authority.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein examining the message to identify a network address comprises identifying a URL.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein identifying a URL comprises
5 comparing text within the electronic message to a database of words to identify the URL.

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising comparing the identified URL to a database of legitimate URLs.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising updating the database based on electronic messages received.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein identifying the hosting authority
15 comprises utilizing an Internet tool to locate a web server hosting the URL.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein utilizing an Internet tool comprises utilizing WHOIS.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the hosting authority comprises identifying an owner of a network domain.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the hosting authority comprises identifying an Internet service provider.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting the report to a central managed service provider configured to forward the report to the identified hosting authority.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising at least temporarily saving the report and transmitting the report to the identified hosting authority at the end of a specified period.

13. A system for generating a report on an unsolicited electronic message,
the system comprising:

a detector operable to detect a network address within an electronic
message identified as an unsolicited message;

5 a host identifier operable to identify an authority hosting the network
address;

a report generator operable to generate a report containing the identified
network address and hosting authority; and

a storage medium configured to at least temporarily store the identified
network address and hosting authority.

10 14. The system of claim 13 further comprising a detector operable to
detect unsolicited messages.

15 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the network address is a URL.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the hosting authority is an Internet
service provider.

17. The system of claim 13 further comprising a processor operable to transmit the generated report.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the processor is configured to transmit the report to the identified hosting authority.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the processor is configured to transmit the report to a central managed service provider.

20. The system of claim 13 further comprising a database containing search terms used to identify the network address within text of the electronic message.

21. The system of claim 13 further comprising a database containing a list of trusted network addresses.

22. A computer product for generating a report on an unsolicited electronic message, comprising:

code that receives an electronic mail message;

code that determines whether the electronic message is an unsolicited message;

code that examines the message to identify a network address relating to the message if the message is an unsolicited message,

code that identifies an authority hosting the network address;

code that generates a report containing the identified network address; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes.

23. The computer product of claim 22 wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, hard drive, and a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

24. The computer product of claim 22 further comprising code that transmits the generated report to the identified hosting authority.

25. The computer product of claim 22 further comprising code that compares text within the electronic message to a database of words to locate the network address within the text.

5 26. The computer product of claim 22 further comprising code that compares the identified network address with trusted network addresses.